



December 2020



Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

Hall Lane, Houghton-le-Spring DH5 8DA

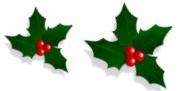
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Hello and welcome to the Christmas edition of Bernard Gilpin Primary School's newsletter



FESTIVE FUN AT BERNARD GILPIN



MARY POPPINS: SPIT SPOT!

The children of Year 5 and 6 have produced their very own performance of the much-loved musical, Mary Poppins. The lead roles were taken on superbly by the children of Year 6. Maddie acted and sang fabulously as everyone's favourite Nanny, Mary Poppins, who was supported fantastically by Isaac as Mr. Banks, Poppy as Mrs. Banks and Olivia and Leo as Jane and Michael Banks. Sam played the role of chirpy chimney sweep Bert excellently and Mason proved to be hilarious as the ancient bank manager, Mr. Dawes. The main songs were supported by a number of fantastic dances performed by Year 5 and 6 children, as well as superb singing from the choir. In the absence of the usual live performances in school this Christmas, the children embarked on a journey into the world of green screen production. Those children not involved in acting tried their hand at the production side of things - with fantastic results. A huge well done to all of the children involved in the whole production.



Jane, Mary, Michael and Bert during the performance of Mary Poppins

SEASONAL SONGS AND FESTIVE FUN - YEAR 3 AND 4

The children in Year 3 and 4 all took part in an excellent Christmas themed performance entitled 'Seasonal Songs and Festive Fun.' All of the children sang brilliantly with their renditions of some traditional carols, as well as some well-loved classic Christmas songs. The children also entertained everyone with some festive fun in the form of jokes, making the performance, a great success. A big well done to all of the children for their fantastic Christmas jumpers and hats and for their enthusiastic and festive singing voices.

FOUNDATION STAGE - NATIVITY

The children of Foundation Stage performed their own superb version of a traditional Nativity recently, in which the children retold the Christmas story. They were absolutely amazing, with clear speaking voices and fantastic singing. A big thank you to all of the staff who helped with the production and of course to all of the enthusiastic children involved - well done.

YEAR 1 AND 2 - PRICKLY HAY

A huge well done to the children in Year 1 and 2 for their performance of Prickly Hay. The Year 2 children took the leading roles and worked extremely hard on learning and perfecting their speaking parts. Both year groups performed some fantastic dance routines and the singing was excellent. The costumes, enthusiasm and smiling faces made the nativity very enjoyable to watch. A huge thank you to all of the staff involved for bringing the super show to life.



Year 3 and 4 Seasonal Singers



Dressed in costume ready for Prickly Hay



All smiles in the Nativity performance



THE LEARNING CONTINUES IN THE CLASSROOMS



A rangoli pattern in Reception



The Year 1 sorting objects in History



Year 2 creating collages in Art

Foundation Stage This half term the focus has been Diwali. The children have found out all about the Festival of Light and have enjoyed making Diva Lamps, Rangoli Patterns and Mehndi hand designs. They have also been sharing Christmas stories such as The Nutcracker and the Polar Express. The children enjoyed writing letters to Santa to tell him what they would like for Christmas this year.

Year 1 have been reading, writing, counting and ordering numbers. The children have been completing addition and subtraction calculations, and problem solving. They have also been identifying, naming and classifying 2D and 3D shapes. The children have enjoyed reading many books in their English lessons. In their written work they have been retelling stories and writing instructions. During their history studies this half term Year 1 have been busy learning all about toys from the past. They have been looking at, sorting, comparing and playing with lots of different toys. They also found out about the past by asking people at home about the toys they used to play with. In D.T. the children have been investigating different structures in their environment. After reading 'There's a Bear on my Chair' they designed, made and evaluated a chair for their own bear.

Year 2 have enjoyed reading their class text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' They re-told the original story, changing the main character so they could further develop their writing. The children then learnt how to make porridge and wrote instructions about how to make it. They used imperative verbs and commas in a list whilst writing the instructions. In maths, the children calculated amounts of money to £1 and solved problems involving money. In History, the children studied Remembrance Day and researched the past relating to the Houghton-le-Spring cenotaph. The children made a timeline of different wars in the past which are commemorated on Remembrance Day. They also created images of poppies during Art lessons using pastels and collage. In Science, the children learnt about Food and Nutrition including a range of food groups in their diet using the 'eat well plate.' The children then classified a range of food into the different food groups.

Year 3 have enjoyed reading their new class text 'Anisha: Accidental Detective.' The children have been excited to read the mystery storyline as well as finding out about the traditions and customs of a Hindi wedding ceremony. The children have also been learning all about Light in Science this half term in which the children planned, carried out and concluded an investigation using torches to observe how shadows change. Both Year 3 classes have been studying Food & Nutrition in Design Technology where the children evaluated some existing scones before designing and making their own on 'Make It Day.' The children have also been investigating 'Settlers and Land Use' in Geography where they enjoyed finding out the population of different counties across the UK as well as discussing types of modern settlements around the UK.

Year 4 began the new half term by becoming 'Secret Agents', successfully cracking a code to find out what their new book was - 'Agent Asha Mission Shark Bytes.' They have loved learning about Agent Asha and have written Tweets from her perspective. In Maths, they have learnt how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. They learnt the features of a river and researched major rivers globally in Geography. In Design and Technology, they focused on Levers and Mechanisms. They enjoyed making Roman books using the skills they had learnt including adding reciprocating and linear movements. The children developed their writing in French by writing letters to a friend including details such as their name, age and hobbies.

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed reading their class novel in English this half term, the action-adventure spy novel 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz. In their writing, the children became MI6 inventors by designing their own state-of-the-art gadgets and explaining how they work for spies. In maths, they have been developing their fluency of short and long multiplication and division through learning the written methods for both operations. Year 5 have 'travelled to space' in Science lessons this half term to learn about the planets in the Solar System as well as the relationship between the Sun, Earth and Moon. During Geography lessons, the children have been studying 'Global Trade' and were amazed to find out where some of our food actually comes from. They have used maps to explain the UK's trade links with other countries. In D.T. the children were tasked with an exciting challenge of researching, designing and constructing their own model-sized bird hide, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This led to some very impressive creations from the children.

Year 6 have been finding equivalent fractions using pizzas and KitKats to deepen their understanding in a real-life context. In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed reading the book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio from which they have produced a number of independent written pieces including a formal balanced argument. In Science, Year 6 have been fascinated to study Evolution and Inheritance, using their knowledge of genetics to create their own animal. In Geography, the children also studied The Water Cycle, looking closely at cloud coverage and the water filtration process. During D.T. lessons this term, the children have tasted, designed, created and evaluated their own marvellous muffins. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave the 'British Bake Off' contestants a run for their money.



Healthy food preparation in Year 3



Roman D.T. books in Year 4



Year 5 D.T. birdhouses



Year 6 muffin making in D.T.

CHILDREN IN NEED - 'FIVE TO THRIVE'

To raise money for Children in Need this year, the children took part in Children in Need's 'Five to Thrive' - a week of well-being activities led by Joe Wicks, Dr Radha and Blue Peter. Throughout the week, the children learnt about the '5 Ways to Well-Being' to help them develop their understanding of how we can look after our own mental health, as well as how to help others. Every morning, all classes enjoyed completing a Joe Wicks workout video to reinforce the importance of exercise for having good mental health and, to round off the week, the school participated in 'Joe's Ultimate Feel Good Friday Fundraiser'. Well done to the children and staff for making it through the burpee and squat pain to complete their Children in Need P.E. challenge, and a huge thank you to everyone for all of your generous donations - the school raised a substantial amount of money for this very good cause.



A super selection of odd socks



Exercising with Joe and Pudsey



Tasty treats for Christmas



Full speed ahead in the Santa Dash

FESTIVE FUN FOR ALL

To celebrate the end of another successful term, the children enjoyed a range of Christmas activities. Everyone relished their Christmas dinner, which was accompanied by some classic Christmas songs and Christmas crackers.

ODD SOCKS DAY

The school recently supported Anti-Bullying Week, with all of the year groups taking part in various activities. This year's theme was 'United Against Bullying' and throughout the week, the children discussed ways in which we can join together to help prevent and stop bullying at school, in our communities and online. To end the week, the school were involved in an 'Odd Socks Day' where children and staff came to school wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality and what makes us unique. There was a huge amount of effort put into the day, as shown by some truly whacky and wonderful sock combinations.

CHARITY DONATIONS

A huge thank you to everyone who brought food, Christmas gifts and toys into school over the past few weeks to help 'Hetton New Dawn' and 'Space 4'. Your generous donations will support these local charities who are working together over the festive period to provide a food bank for those in need in the local area and are also distributing Christmas gifts and Children's toys to support families.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS

For those families not in receipt of means tested free school meals, there is a range of other support available in communities over the Christmas period. Information is available on Sunderland City Council's website - www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitychristmas - and includes information about access to food vouchers, food parcels and hampers, support with fuel and heating the home, mental health and well-being support, and support for carers, as well as festive activities and other online events.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Holiday - School closes Friday 18th December

INSET - Monday 4th January 2021- School Closed

School re-opens - Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half term - school closes Friday 12th February 2021

School re-opens - Monday 22nd February 2021

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

As we are currently unable to hold our Dream, Believe, Achieve assemblies as normal, the celebration of the children's achievements will be held every other week within each classroom. Alongside the certificates received by the children, a telephone call home will be made from the class teacher to discuss and celebrate your child's achievements.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

<https://student.readingplus.com/>

<https://www.lexiacore5.com/>

<https://spag.com/>

<https://www.play.ttrockstars.com/>

<http://sumdog.com/>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After another action-packed and exciting term, we would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Please note that all pick-up and drop-off times will remain the same as those currently in place. Take care.